(b) if so, whether Government have examined this order of the Supreme Court;

(c) whether after this, almost all those who were allotted pumps have been cleared and have been issued licence for running these petrol pumps;

(d) if so, whether any guidelines have been prepared as to in what manner the petrol pumps will be allotted in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court of India *vide* its judgement dated the 20th December, 2002, has quashed the order of the Government dated 9th August, 2002 cancelling allotments of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributerships and SKO-LDO dealerships made on the recommendations of the Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) since January 1, 2000, except in respect of certain cases which were reported in the media. The Court has also appointed a Committee comprising a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India and a retired Judge of the High Court of Delhi and has referred these media-reported cases to this Committee for its examination. The Court has asked the Committee to submit its report to the Court within a period of three months. In respect of the remaining cases of selection, which are not being examined by the aforesaid Committee, Government have advised the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take further action.

(d) and (e) Consequent upon dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the Petroleum sector *w.e.f.* 1.4.2002, the selection of dealers for retail outlets (petrol pumps) will now be made by the OMCs themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them.

Overseas oil projects

76. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to take some projects in the oil sectors in other countries;

(b) if so, the details of the projects in which investment is proposed to be made; and

(c) the amount of investment involved in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Details of oil projects in various foreign countries in which the Indian Public Sector Oil Companies are participating are as follows:

Name of the Country		Name of PSU	Project	Estimated Investment (Rs./Crores)
A-Exploration & Production (E&P) Sector				
i)	Iran	OVL, IOC & OIL	Farsi Offshore Exploration Block	147
ii)	Iraq	OVL	Block-8 Exploration Project	73
iii)	Libya	OVL	Blocks NC-188 and NC-189 Exploration Project	147
iv)	Myanmar	OVL & GAIL	Block A-I offshore gas project	21
v)	Russia	OVL	Sakhalin-I oil & gas project	8,100
vi)	USA	OVL	Louisiana Offshore gas exploration project	36
vii)	Vietnam	OVL	Block 06.1 offshore Project	900
B-Downstream Sector				
viii)	Mauritius	IOC	For setting up of facilities such as oil terminal tankage/bunkering, LPG storage/bottling/ distribution, Retailing and marketing of lubricants etc.	80
ix)	Sri Lanka	Lanka IOC Pvt. Ltd.	Owning and operating storage facilities in Sri Lanka	172

The oil PSU are also pursuing E&P sector, gas sector and downstream sector opportunities in some other countries like Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Oman, Sudan and Venezuela.

OVL - ONGC Videsh Ltd., GAIL - Gail India Ltd., IOC - Indian Oil Corporation